

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selling information to a buyer, the method comprising:

receiving an offer for the information including at least one contingency from the buyer, wherein each contingency provides an uncertainty regarding the information;

providing the information from a seller in response to the offer, the information includes at least one condition about the at least one contingency, wherein each condition provides a premise upon which fulfillment of at least one of the contingencies depends, and wherein the at least one condition is unsatisfied when the information is provided; and

receiving a first payment for the information for the seller upon satisfaction of the at least one condition for the contingency ~~being satisfied~~ after the information has been provided to the buyer.

2. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 further comprising receiving a base payment when the information has been provided to the buyer.

3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 further comprising adjusting an amount for the first payment based on a probability that the condition for the contingency will occur.

4. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 3 further comprising:
selecting an announced probability for the condition for the contingency; and
determining the amount for the first payment based on a function which uses the announced probability for the condition for the contingency occurring.

5. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 4 wherein the amount of the first payment is maximized when the announced probability for the condition occurring is substantially the same as a true probability for the condition occurring.

6. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 further comprising setting the condition for the contingency in the received offer.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 6 further comprising:
sending a counteroffer to the buyer based on the offer, the counteroffer providing the condition set for the contingency to the buyer; and
determining if the counteroffer with the condition set for the contingency is accepted by the buyer, wherein the information is only provided upon the condition set for the contingency being accepted.

8. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 further comprising determining if an event has occurred on which the condition for the contingency is based.

9. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 8 further comprising determining if the condition for the contingency has been satisfied by the event.

10. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein one or more of the steps are carried out electronically.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for selling information to a buyer, the system comprising:

a receiving system that receives an offer for the information including at least one contingency from the buyer, wherein each contingency provides an uncertainty regarding the information;

a source for the information that provides the information in response to the offer, the information includes at least one condition about the at least one contingency, wherein each condition provides a premise upon which fulfillment of at least one of the contingencies depends, and wherein the at least one condition is unsatisfied when the information is provided; and

a contingent payment processing system that receives a first payment for the information upon satisfaction of the at least one condition for the contingency ~~being satisfied~~ after the information has been provided to the buyer.

12. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 11 further comprising a base payment processing system that receives a base payment when the information has been provided.

13. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 11 wherein the first payment processing system adjusts an amount for the first payment based on a probability that the condition for the contingency occurs.

14. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 13 wherein the first payment processing system selects an announced probability for the condition for the contingency and a function for determining the amount for the first payment based on the announced probability for the condition for the contingency occurring.

15. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 14 wherein the first payment processing system maximizes the amount of the contingent payment when the announced probability for the condition occurring is substantially the same as a true probability for the condition occurring.

16. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 11 further comprising a condition setting system which sets the condition for the contingency in the received offer.

17. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 16 further comprising:
a counteroffer system that sends a counteroffer to the buyer based on the offer, the counteroffer provides the condition set for the contingency to the buyer; and
purchase decision system that determines if the counteroffer with the condition set for the contingency is accepted by the buyer, wherein the information is only provided upon the condition set for the contingency being accepted.

18. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 11 further comprising an event determining system that determines if an event has occurred on which the condition for the contingency is based.

19. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 18 further comprising a condition determining system that determines if the condition for the contingency has been satisfied by the event.

20. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 11 wherein the receiving system receives the offer and the source of the information provides the information electronically.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having stored instructions for selling contingent information which when executed by a processor, causes the processor to perform:

receiving an offer for the information including at least one contingency from the buyer, wherein each contingency provides an uncertainty regarding the information;

providing the information from a seller in response to the offer, the information includes at least one condition about the at least one contingency, wherein each condition provides a premise upon which fulfillment of at least one of the contingencies depends, and wherein the at least one condition is unsatisfied when the information is provided; and

receiving a first payment for the information for the seller upon satisfaction of the at least one condition for the contingency ~~being satisfied~~ after the information has been provided to the buyer

22. (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 22 further comprising receiving a base payment when the information has been provided to the buyer.

23. (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 22 further comprising adjusting an amount for the first payment based on an announced probability that the condition for the contingency will occur.

24. (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 23 further comprising:
selecting the announced probability for the condition for the contingency; and
determining the amount for the first payment based on a function which uses the announced probability for the condition for the contingency occurring.

25. (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 24 wherein the amount of the first payment is maximized when the announced probability for the condition occurring is substantially the same as a true probability for the condition occurring.

26. (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 21 further comprising setting the condition for the contingency in the received offer.

27. (Previously Presented) The medium as set forth in claim 26 further comprising:

 sending a counteroffer to the buyer based on the offer, the counteroffer providing the condition set for the contingency to the buyer; and

 determining if the counteroffer with the condition set for the contingency is accepted by the buyer, wherein the information is only provided upon the condition set for the contingency being accepted.

28. (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 21 further comprising determining if an event has occurred on which the condition for the contingency is based.

29. (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 28 further comprising determining if the condition for the contingency has been satisfied by the event.

30. (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 21 wherein one or more of the steps are carried out electronically.